

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, EAGR, PK

SUBJ: RARBELA DAM PROBLEM UPDATE

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SUMMARY: THE WORRISOME LEAK IN TUNNEL TWO REPORTED IN REFTELS HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE A MINOR MECHANICAL PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN CORRECTED. AN ADDITIONAL SMALL LEAK HAS SINCE BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE SAME TUNNEL BUT IS BELIEVED TO BE REPAIRABLE WHILE THE RESERVOIR IS FULL. REPAIR WORK ON THE STILLING BASINS OF TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR IS PROCEEDING MUCH FASTER THAN WAS EARLIER BELIEVED POSSIBLE. WITH PLANNED RELEASE OF STORED WATER ABOVE THE SPILLWAY ELEVATION, EARLY COMPLETION OF TUNNEL FIVE, AND EARLIER THAN EXPECTED REPAIRS TO THE STILLING BASINS OF TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR, IT NOW APPEARS LIKELY THAT A MODERATE OUTFLOW OF WATER WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE DAM THROUGHOUT THE WINTER CROP SEASON. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF VISITED TARBELA SITE NOVEMBER 13 TO DISCUSS

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RECENT PROBLEMS WITH TAMS CHIEF RESIDENT ENGINEER,

MORGAN THOMPSON, WHO APPEARED ALMOST BUOYANT. THE MAJOR LEAKAGE PROBLEM IN TUNNEL TWO INVOLVED AN HEMI-SPHERICAL BULKHEAD IN THE INTAKE TOWER WHICH SERVES TO OPEN AND CLOSE THE TUNNEL DURING THE POWER PRODUCTION STAGE. THE BULKHEAD IS LOCKED INTO PLACE BY A LATCH WHICH FALLS INTO A COGWHEEL. AT AN EARLIER CLOSING THE BULKHEAD REGISTERED SEALED ON THE INSTRUMENTS BUT IN FACT HAD NOT LATCHED PROPERLY AND LEFT A GAP OF SIX INCHES. THIS HAS BEEN FIXED AND THE CONNECTION NOW OPERATES AS DESIGNED.

2. AFTER THE BULKEAD PROBLEM WAS SOLVED AND DRAINAGE OF THE TUNNEL RESTARTED, IT WAS FOUND THAT ANOTHER SMALLER LEAK EXISTED. THE INFLOW FROM THIS IS MINIMAL AND THE TUNNEL WAS BEING RAPIDLY DRAINED WHILE EMBOFF WAS PRESENT. THOMPSON IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT THIS LEAK IS THROUGH A COVERPLATE OVER THE RIVER LEVEL GATE STRUCTURE. WHEN THE TUNNEL WAS FILLING AN AIR BUBBLE "BURPED" THROUGH THIS PLATE WHICH IS HELD IN PLACE BY ITS OWN WEIGHT AND LAKE PRESSURE. THIS CAN BE EASILY REPAIRED. AS THIS FORWARD GATE AREA OF THE TUNNEL WILL BE FILLED WITH A CONCRETE PLUG WHEN THE TUNNEL IS FULLY CONVERTED TO THE POWER PHASE, THIS TYPE OF ACCIDENT WILL NOT THEN RE-OCCUR.

3. REPAIRS TO THE STILLING BASINS IN TUNNELS THREE AND FOUR ARE PROCEEDING MUCH FASTER THAN EARLIER ESTIMATES AND THOMPSON WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE AN EARLIER DATE FOR TUNNEL USE THAN REPORTED IN REFTELS. TUNNEL FOUR REPAIRS ARE MOVING PARTICULARLY WELL AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MID-TO-END OF APRIL. WORK IN THE STILLING BASIN OF TUNNEL THREE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY MAY 20 BUT THE CONCRETE REQUIRES A 28 DAY CURING PERIOD. THIS CURRING IS PRE-FERABLY DONE UNDER WATER AND THEREFORE AS SOON AS ALL WORKMEN ARE OUT OF THAT STILLING BASIN, TUNNEL FOUR WILL BE PUT INTO OPERATION. THIS WILL SUBMERGE TUNNEL THREE BASIN BUT WILL NOT SUBMIT IT TO FLOW PRESSURES.

4. THOMPSON STATED THAT THE CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS FOR THE LEFT-BANK, TUNNEL FIVE ARE CONFIDENT OF ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMPLETION AHEAD OF THE LATEST MARCH 31 SCHEDULE. THIS TUNNEL WAS ADDED TO THE DAM COMPLEX AT A LATER STAGE AND IS BEING CONSTRUCTED UNDER A SEPARATE CONTRACT.

5. WAPDA PLANS TO RELEASE THE 1.6 MAF STORED ABOVE THE SPILLWAY LEVEL OF THE RESERVOIR DURING PERIOD UNTIL COMPLETION OF TUNNEL FIVE. AFTER THAT DATE TUNNEL FIVE AND LATER TUNNEL FOUR WILL BE USED TO DRAWDOWN THE RESERVOIR TO

PROVIDE IRRIGATION OFFTAKE. ACTUAL FIGURES WERE NOT AVAILABLE BUT ACCORDING TO THOMPSON, WAPDA BELIEVES AN ADEQUATE IRRIGATION FLOW CAN BE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE WINTER IRRIGATION SEASON. AS OF THE DATE OF THE VISIT, WAPDA WAS REQUESTING SPILLWAY OFFTAKE EQUAL TO RESERVOIR INTAKE AND THE 1.6 MAF IN IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE STORAGE WAS NOT BEING USED.

6. POWERHOUSE CONSTRUCTION IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY BUT THE TUNNEL PROBLEMS MAY DELAY POWER PRODUCTION FOR A FEW MONTHS. VARIOUS SUPPLY-LINE PROBLEMS WHICH HAD DELAYED THE POWERHOUSE SCHEDULE HAVE BEEN SOLVED AND THE FIRST TURBINE SHOULD BE READY IN AUGUST 1976, WITH THE OTHER THREE COMPLETED AT MONTHLY INTERVALS THEREAFTER. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE PROBLEMS IN TUNNEL TWO, TUNNEL ONE HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE MANIFOLD CONNECTING IT TO THE FIRST FOUR TURBINES. THIS RELEASE IS LIKELY TO COME WITHIN TWO WEEKS. INSTALLATION OF THE MANIFOLD IS A TEN MONTHS JOB AND THUS THE FIRST ELECTRICITY FROM TARBELA MAY NOT COME ONSTREAM UNTIL OCTOBER 1976.

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